

A Tall Story

Kumar Persaud was very tall. He was the tallest boy in his class. Kumar was very friendly with all of the children. But he never played with Steven, who lived in the house next to his.

One day Kumar's mother, Mrs. Persaud, spoke to him. She said, "Kumar, why don't you ever play with Steven?"

Kumar said. "Steven is very short. He is too short to be my friend."

Mrs. Persaud said, "Let me tell you a story." This is the story she told:

A lion had been out hunting all morning. He was hot and tired, so he lay down in the shade of a tree. He soon fell asleep.

A mouse happened to be walking by. He had never been so close to a lion. The mouse was curious. He went quietly up to the lion and looked at it.

"What an amazing beast!" said the mouse. "I must take a closer look." The next thing the mouse knew, he was walking up and down on top of the lion.



The lion suddenly woke up. He threw his big paw over the mouse and held him tightly.

"What have I here?" roared the lion. "Why, I have a mouse! Well, a mouse is not much of a meal. But it is better than nothing at all."

The lion opened his great mouth to eat the mouse.

"Please, don't eat me!" begged the mouse. "Please let me go. If you do, I will never forget it. The time may come when I can help you."

The lion smiled. "Help me?" he said. "How could a little fellow like you help someone like me?"

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The lion laughed. He laughed louder and louder. The idea seemed so silly! By now he was feeling happy. He lifted his paw, and the mouse scampered away.

Many months went by. One day the lion was walking in the woods. He came to a lake. He started to take a drink of water. Just then the lion smelled something. The lion knew that smell! It meant that people were near!

Suddenly the lion heard voices. "Get him! Get that lion!" called the voices.

The lion turned to run, but it was too late. He felt a strong rope around his neck and another around his body.

"Tie the lion to a tree!" a hunter cried out. "We can kill the lion later!"

They dragged the lion across the ground. They tied the lion to a tree. Then the hunters went on their way.

The lion roared. His roar was very loud. The mouse was passing by. He said, "That sounds like my friend, the lion."



The mouse soon came upon the lion. Two strong ropes held the lion to a tree.

"Well, well, well," the mouse said to the lion. "You seem to be in trouble." The lion looked at the mouse. He wondered if the mouse was making fun of him.

Then the mouse said, "Don't you remember me? You once trapped me with your paw. But then you let me go."

"Oh, yes," said the lion. "Now I remember."

The mouse went on. "I said that I might help you one day." With that, the mouse put his sharp teeth against one rope. He gnawed and gnawed until he cut through it. Then he hopped to the other rope and gnawed right through it.

The lion was free!

"Thank you, friend, for saving my life," called the lion as he hurried away.

Mrs. Persaud turned to her son. She said, "Tell me, Kumar. What does this story teach?"

Kumar smiled and said, "It shows that a friend may be small – but a small friend can do great things."

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Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the passage “A Tall Story”, then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. How are the lion and the mouse ALIKE?
 - A. Both the lion and the mouse were tied to a tree.
 - B. Both the lion and the mouse escaped from the hunters.
 - C. Both the lion and the mouse had a great sense of smell.
 - D. Both the lion and the mouse were able to save a life.

2. Which word describes BOTH the lion and the mouse?
 - A. silly
 - B. trapped
 - C. curious
 - D. playful

3. At the end of the story how does Kumar show he has changed his mind about being friends with Steven?
 - A. He realizes that even a small friend can do great things.
 - B. He listens to the story his mother told him.
 - C. He smiles at the end of his mother’s story.
 - D. He tells his mother he learned a lesson about saving lives.

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4. The lion changed his mind about eating the mouse. What does he do that shows how he changed his mind?
- A. He laughs at the silly idea.
 - B. He questions the mouse.
 - C. He lifts his big paw.
 - D. He opens his huge mouth.
5. What is ALIKE about Kumar and the lion?
- A. They both did not appreciate their small friend.
 - B. They both were amused by their small friend.
 - C. They both learned a lesson from their small friend.
 - D. They both played with their small friend.

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Answer Key – A Tall Story

LA.A.2.2.7 The student identifies no more than two similar or dissimilar elements within a text or identifies how elements are alike or different within a single text.

LA.E.1.2.3 The student identifies an explanation or a simple analysis of similarities or differences between no more than two characters, within one character over time, between settings, or between events in a single text.

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